



Hartlepool Power Station Local Community Liaison Committee Minutes of meeting held in Training Room 9 Training Centre 2 on Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Attendees

Mark Lees	Station Director Hartlepool Power Station (Meeting Chair)
Steve Tomlinson	Improvement Manager EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Susie Gatenby	Technical, Safety and Support Manager EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Duncan Bain	Human Resources Manager EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Andrew Wilson	Quality Management Group Head EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Ross Nuttall	Environmental Safety EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Sarah Dunn	Environmental Compliance Co-Ordinator EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Sharne Lane	Communications EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Keeley Potter	Visitor Centre Co-ordinator EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Jenny Railston	Human Resources EDF Hartlepool Power Station
Matthew Pardo	Communications EDF
Stephen Kirsopp	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Jon Davenport	Environment Agency (EA)
Tim Shurmer	Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit
Ann Oxley	Teesmouth Field Centre
Gil Parker	Alice House Hospice
Martin Green	Local resident
David Coupe	Middlesbrough Borough Council
Matthew Dodds	Hartlepool Borough Council
Ursula Earl	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Stephen Smith	Greatham Parish Council
Daniel Bunney	Natara
Andy Bruce	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Lee Dickinson	Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Gaz Hay	Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Apologies

Michelle Bendelow	Stockton Borough Council
Clare Gubbins	Teesmouth Field Centre
Clare Shakespeare-Watts	Teesmouth Field Centre

Introduction

1. Mark Lees opened the meeting noting how good attendance was, welcomed everyone and invited input around the safety message which was focussed on driving safely.
2. Mark went on to apologise that he would need to leave the meeting early as the World Association of Nuclear Operators was onsite as part of a regular independent review of the power station.

Hartlepool Power Station Update

3. Mark Lees reported that the station is under Enhanced Regulatory Attention from the ONR, as discussed in the previous meeting. He went on to say it had been a very challenging period on the power station and that there had been a lot of hard work completed in the last six months, in line with the station's improvement plan. This had involved spending time with the ONR to prove the station is delivering to the plan and to constantly update it.
4. He confirmed the Annual Review Of Safety, a formal inspection process, had taken place. The feedback was that the ONR was broadly pleased with the improvements being made but will continue to monitor developments.
5. Mark then spoke about about an unplanned trip on Reactor 2, which occurred just a few days after the last meeting in May, and approximately 30 days into the outage on Reactor 1. The trip of Reactor 2 was triggered by a fault within one of the station's generator transformers, the equipment which is critical in bringing power onto the site. The trip left the station cut off from all offsite power. He explained that the site's four gas turbines, which provide back-up power in an event like this, started as expected and operated until offsite power supplies were reinstated. A full investigation was carried out and determined that there had been a manufacturing issue with the new transformer. This had resulted in several very challenging months for the site.
6. He further explained that when Reactor 1 was started in late October there was an unexpected fault with the feed pump. Following reactor shutdown, there was then a boiler tube leak that resulted in the reactor having to remain offline to allow the leaking boiler tube plugging to be carried out.
7. Talk then turned to an incident in June in which an operator went to work on the wrong unit and opened a valve which allowed high pressure, high temperature steam to escape. The individual didn't suffer any burns, however due to the event being exceptionally loud, the member of staff did suffer temporary impacts to their hearing. The incident remains under ONR investigation.
8. Mark then talked about a second safety incident in which two staff, when working on a feed pump, opened a connection with high pressure oil which came out in an uncontrolled way. The individuals went to hospital as a precaution.
9. There was discussion around how such events are reported and what learning is taken from them.
10. Mark then spoke about the possibility of new power stations at Hartlepool and explained that it was vital to keep site staff engaged in the possibility of new nuclear but also to manage expectations. He said his priority was to keep the focus on ongoing generation. He confirmed that the possibility of new build is turning into an active project.
11. ONR Inspector Stephen Kirsopp added that although he does not work in the new reactor team, he understood any proposed new reactor would have to go through an assessment process to understand how it would operate. He said ONR colleagues who could explain more about new reactor assessment processes, could attend future meetings.

12. Martin Green brought the attention of the meeting to the links in the back of the circulated report for more information.
13. Stephen Kirsopp explained that the ONR was starting tests with AI systems in a safe environment where the use of the technology can be safely tested. He confirmed that he would update at future LCLC meetings.
14. Matthew Dodds queried the situation with X Energy's attendance at these meetings. Mark Lees replied that it was not yet the right time to introduce them at the meetings. He said that once the company had submitted a design to the regulator for approval it may be a better time for the firm to attend. The meeting also heard that the LCLC exists to discuss Hartlepool Power Station issues and that X Energy would likely create its own Hartlepool based forum to deliver details.
15. At this point, Mark Lees left the meeting.
16. Steve Tomlinson, who took over Chairing the meeting, updated that in September 2025 a decision was taken by EDF to extend Hartlepool Power Station's operating lifetime out to March 2028. He confirmed that the company is in the process of considering further extensions.
17. Duncan Bain added that there was an appetite within EDF to look further ahead at the station's potential because it is difficult to plan with short term life extensions.
18. David Coupe asked about equipment used onsite, which may now be coming to the end of its lifespan. He said that equipment may have been in better condition ten years ago, which was the point the plant was originally due to run until. Steve Tomlinson confirmed that there was an engineering plan to focus on the long term needs.

Safety

19. Andrew Wilson talked about two safety events that had required hospital attendance. One of them was the oil release that Mark Lees discussed earlier. The other event involved a contractor who, while in the car park, had been hit in the face when the wind caught an open truck door. This resulted in him requiring stitches inside his mouth.
20. There was some discussion around if the oil, from the leak incident, was carcinogenic and further questions around the risk assessments the station has in place. Susie Gatenby confirmed that the individuals involved were wearing full PPE so exposure had been minimal. The importance of wearing correct PPE was stressed.

ONR Update

21. Stephen Kirsopp noted the recent ONR inspection report and said that it was positive. He explained that the majority of inspections related to the outage and were done by specialist inspectors.

22. He went on to address the Enhanced Regulatory Attention and explained that a station performance improvement plan had been developed. ONR had been impressed with the investment the station was making and reported that the ONR and the station teams engage every week. He said that once the station reaches the end of the improvement plan it will be reassessed by the ONR which will decide if enhanced attention status is still required. He highlighted the link in the ONR report submitted for the meeting, should anyone want more information.

Environment

23. Sarah Dunn updated regarding a recent release of Taprogge balls, which was the first since February 2023. She advised that most of the balls were recovered by site systems, however some were discharged to the sea. The power station sent teams to walk the area's beaches and recover any balls found. She also clarified that the balls could be disposed of in normal household waste.
24. She then told the meeting that a beach clean event was staged during the autumn and that 59kg of rubbish was removed from North Gare. She said there were plans to do this again in the future.
25. Jon Davenport touched on the Taprogge issue stating that the aim is for zero releases and although it is important to remember that they are not harmful to the environment, they are recognised by the public as being 'from site'. He confirmed there had been a reduction of releases year on year.
26. Jon gave an overview of how environmental regulations work, stating that the goal is to reduce environmental impacts. He talked about how the site was looking at defueling and decommissioning preparations and confirmed that nuclear safety includes environmental safety and that anyone on site can raise an environmental issue.

Emergency Planning

27. Andrew Wilson then told the meeting about a recent release of clean carbon dioxide, resulting from an operator lifting a relief valve. This event was classed as a site incident, as there were staff working in the area at the time, but that the event was dealt with inside four hours.
28. Andrew then explained about assessed exercises, where colleagues from across EDF's other power stations attend to assess other sites' emergency exercises.
29. Daniel Bunney asked for sight of the emergency planning calendar to compare to Natura's. As a close neighbour, he said it would be good to know when to expect alarms for the exercises as opposed to genuine alerts.

People Update

30. Duncan Bain confirmed that the station's headcount sits at 530 EDF staff, 40 agency and 250 embedded contractors. He said that there are regularly 1000 people on site and that a lot of positives could be taken from that; in particular, the benefits those contractors bring in spending money in Teesside.

31. Duncan updated that the station had five graduates through the graduate scheme this year, with four of those now securing permanent roles.
32. The station had 18 apprentices onsite, 16 in the maintenance department and two in the projects team. Duncan informed the meeting that, following local company Venator going into administration, the station had been able to offer two female apprentices roles with EDF to finalise their apprenticeships. Duncan added that the station's next apprentice scheme is due to open soon and a lot of interest was expected.
33. Duncan confirmed that 150 applications have been received following a recent recruitment advert for twelve two-year fixed term technician positions in the maintenance department.

Community Update

34. Keeley Potter told the meeting that the Visitor Centre has had 2000 visitors through the door between June and October. This included 1200 pupils from 27 local schools, many of which were on 'Crucial Crew' sessions.
35. The Visitor Centre also hosted 'Bring your child to work' day where the CNC pitched in and other teams from site helped.
36. Keeley told the meeting about a golf charity day that had been held in connection with Alice House Hospice where £1217 had been raised. A further £1000 was raised in donations.
37. The Heysham to Hartlepool bike ride, in which EDF staff cycled from Heysham in Lancashire to Hartlepool, and which raised £8000 for the Alzheimer's Society was discussed.
38. A £1000 power station donation to James Cook Hospital to put towards a specialist scoliosis chair, was also highlighted. EDF also helped numerous sport teams and schools with kit and equipment.
39. Gil Parker spoke about £3000 Alice House Hospice had received earlier in the year from a bucket collection at the power station and thanked EDF staff who helped at events throughout 2025. He mentioned the Tree of Remembrance and the Bright Sparks £20 Challenge, which was sponsored by EDF and raised £2663. He confirmed that the relationship between Alice House Hospice and EDF is the strongest it had ever been and expressed how grateful the hospice is for support.

Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC)

40. Three officers from the CNC attended to give the meeting an insight as to what they do. Inspector Andy Bruce explained that the force provides 24/7 cover for site and told the meeting that their priority is to keep staff and the wider public safe.
41. They explained that their jurisdiction goes from the Hartlepool Power Station site and covers a three-mile radius. He said they have the same powers and training as Cleveland firearm police.

42. The meeting heard that the CNC is observed every year by the ONR and that they test themselves quarterly to ensure they can successfully defend the site.
43. Insp Bruce said that in an incident the force provides a police presence in the site emergency control room, whilst the Operational Firearms Commander has a team on the ground to defend any attack.
44. They displayed what they wear and carry day-to-day onsite and confirmed that there are many specialists within their team, including medics, first aiders and suicide awareness officers.

Teesmouth Field Centre update

45. Ann Oxley confirmed that an agreement has been signed for financial support for the field centre up to March 2031. They had welcomed 48 educational groups, which were mostly primary school students, along with two adult groups: the second visit from Leeds RSPB, and an A Level group from Bede Sixth Form College.
46. Ann stated that they had provisional bookings for 2026 from all over the region and have implemented a waiting list.
47. She then talked about two new study options that are available with funding from the Environment Agency looking at climate change and sea defences.

AOB

48. Martin Green passed leaflets on to the Visitor Centre regarding the Fairtrade Town Steering Group.
49. Matthew Pardo stated how good it was to see new faces at the meeting and encouraged extending invitations to any other interested parties who may want to attend.
50. The next meeting was confirmed to be Wednesday, June 3, 09:30 arrival for a 10:00 start.